

**MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.**

Independent Medical Review

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**Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination**

Dated: 11/18/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:

Claim Number:

Date of UR Decision:

Date of Injury:

IMR Application Received:

MAXIMUS Case Number:

[REDACTED]  
8/1/2013

8/2/2011

8/12/2013

CM13-0012642

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **Skilled nursing facility admission up to a week is medically necessary and appropriate.**

## INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 8/12/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 8/1/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 9/17/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **Skilled nursing facility admission up to a week** is medically necessary and appropriate.

### Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:

The independent medical doctor who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, and is licensed to practice in California. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working at least 24 hours a week in active practice. The Expert Reviewer was selected based on his/her clinical experience, education, background, and expertise in the same or similar specialties that evaluate and/or treat the medical condition and treatments and/or services at issue.

### Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

The patient sustained a work related left knee injury on 08/02/2011. Physical exam is remarkable for decreased range of motion of the left knee and x-rays demonstrated medical joint space narrowing and ossification of the medical collateral ligament with moderate to severe osteoarthritis in the patellofemoral joint. The claimant has undergone treatment with steroid injections, medical therapy, physical therapy and activity modifications. The pain continued and the claimant was recommended to undergo a left knee arthroplasty. The treating provider has requested a skilled nursing admission up to one week post-procedure.

### Documents Reviewed for Determination:

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- Application of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Records from Claims Administrator
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

### 1) Regarding the request for Skilled nursing facility admission up to a week :

#### The Medical Treatment Guidelines Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the ODG, Knee & Leg, Skilled nursing facility, which is not part of the MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Medicare Criteria for Skilled Nursing Care, 2012, which is not part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

Per Medicare coverage criteria, skilled nursing care is indicated if a patient has a significant new functional limitation such as the inability to ambulate more than 50 feet. The employee will require skilled nursing and skilled rehabilitative services post-operatively. There is documentation from the records submitted for review, that the employee will make measurable gains in a predictable period of time with daily skilled nursing/therapy services. **The request for skilled nursing facility admission up to a week is medically necessary and appropriate.**

**Effect of the Decision:**

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH  
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations  
Division of Workers' Compensation  
1515 Clay Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

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Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.